

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SWEDEN'S GENERAL ELECTIONS (REUTER 645, 9/19/76)

- - -

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF REUTER ITEM ON SWEDISH ELECTIONS:

"PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME CONCEDED DEFEAT TODAY IN SWEDEN'S GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, WHICH HAD HELD POWER FOR 44 YEARS.

HE SAID IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW: "IT HURTS ME TO THINK, AFTER HOW HARD WE WORKED, THAT WE DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT."

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADER ADDED: "WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR PROGRAM AS VIGOROUSLY AS EVER IN OPPOSITION."

MR. PALME WAS SPEAKING AFTER VOTING RETURNS SHOWED HIS PARTY AND THEIR COMMUNIST PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERS LAGGING BEHIND THE OPPOSITION NON-SOCIALIST CENTER, LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY BLOC BY MORE THAN TWO PER CENT.

CENTER PARTY LEADER THORJBOERN FAELLDIN, A CALM, PIPE-SMOKING SHEEP FARMER ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE SWEDEN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, DECLARED: "THIS WILL BRING A REVITALIZATION OF SWEDISH POLITICAL DEBATE."

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FINAL FIGURES ARE NOT YET IN, BUT PRELIMINARY RESULTS

INDICATE A NON-SOCIALIST COALITION WOULD HAVE 179 SEATS IN
PARLIAMENT AGAINST 170 FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND
COMMUNISTS.

THIS IS A LOSS OF FIVE SEATS FOR THE RULING PARTY ON THE
RESULTS OF THE LAST ELECTIONS IN 1973." ROBINSON

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